



"VARIETY IN HUNTING AND FISHING"

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

100 NORTH BISMARCK EXPRESSWAY BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501-5095 PHONE 701-328-6300 FAX 701-328-6352

Dear Hunter,

October 29, 2012

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGFD) needs hunters' assistance this fall in deer hunting unit 3F2 (Sioux County, southern Morton and Grant Counties, and eastern Hettinger and Adams Counties) to determine the extent of CWD in wild deer populations in this area.

In March 2010, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was discovered in a mule deer buck in western Sioux County, North Dakota. In November 2010 and 2011, two additional mule deer does were found in the same area. The area where these deer were found encompasses parts of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, and is very close to the South Dakota border of Corson and Perkins Counties. This is the first time that CWD has been found in North Dakota. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP) and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Game and Fish Department are coordinating efforts to test wild deer in this area. Please carefully review the information below and help us by supplying the head of any deer taken in the described area for testing. Thank you.

Animal Head Submissions

To determine the extent of CWD in free-roaming wildlife in Sioux County, southern Morton and Grant Counties, and eastern Hettinger and Adams Counties of North Dakota, rifle hunters who harvest any deer in deer hunting unit 3F2 are being asked to submit the head. These heads should be submitted to one of the following drop-off locations:

North Dakota

Bismarck – NDGFD Main Office
Bismarck - M&M Sausage and Meats
Bismarck – West Dakota Meats
Elgin – Gunny's Bait and Tackle
Elgin – Melvin's Taxidermy
Glen Ullin – Kuntz's Butcher Shop
Hettinger – Dakota Packing
Mandan – Butcher Block Meats
New Leipzig – Hertz Hardware

NDGFD will be collecting heads of harvested deer in this area only during the month of November. Please submit heads as soon as possible. Fresh tissue is better for the testing process.

Hunters should:

1. Remove the head at the **middle of the neck** and take it to one of the drop-off locations. It is the responsibility of the hunter to remove the head. Drop off stations may not be able to assist you with this process. Please follow the instructions below and as posted at the drop-off locations to submit your deer head for testing.
2. **Antlerless Deer:** Deposit the head along with the NDGFD-issued license head tag, properly notched and affixed to the ear. The carcass tag must remain affixed to the carcass.
3. **Antlered Deer:** Animals that are to be mounted can be caped by a taxidermist and the antlers can be removed with a v-cut that will not destroy the tissue needed for CWD testing. Hunters who choose to mount their own deer can remove the antlers in a similar fashion; **however the skull plate must be clean with no meat or tissue attached.** After antlers have been removed, the head can be submitted at one of the drop-off locations for testing. The properly affixed and notched NDGFD-issued license head tag must stay with the antlers. The carcass tag must be affixed to the carcass. **Identification tags are available at all drop-off locations to re-label the head once the antlers have been removed for testing purposes. Please use a permanent marker and print the requested information on the tag provided at the drop-off location and attach the tag to one ear of the animal by cutting a small hole through the center of the ear and inserting one leg of the wire through the hole and twisting the two legs of the wire together. You will need to provide your LICENSE NUMBER, HUNTING UNIT, HARVEST DATE and NAME on the identification tag.** This process is very important because we will need to know the hunter's *Name* and *License Number* to be able to contact the hunter with test results. **Without this information we will not test the animal.**

Heads placed in barrels or collection areas at the drop-off locations will be picked up on a weekly basis. Samples will be collected and sent to the lab for CWD testing. This study is designed to monitor our free-roaming deer populations to determine to what extent this disease occurs in the wild.

Transportation and Disposal of Carcasses

Recent research in Colorado suggests that CWD infected carcasses may be an avenue for the spread of CWD to other areas of the state or to other states. Transporting carcasses and discarding remnants of nervous tissue outside the unit has the potential to spread the disease. It is necessary that we take the precaution of limiting the movement of potentially infected tissue outside the unit CWD was initially found.

Therefore, NDGFD has enacted regulations to prohibit the transport of whole carcasses out of deer hunting unit 3F2. Whole carcasses may only be removed from the area if the hunter is taking them to a licensed processor to be processed. Heads may be removed and transported to one of the Drop Off sites listed in this letter, or they may be taken to a licensed taxidermist. Removing the intact carcass and head from the area for any other purpose is prohibited. Boned out meat may be removed from the unit.

Current Board of Animal Health (BOAH) regulations require that captive elk and deer are contained in enclosures that have fences adequate to prevent deer and elk movement in or out. NDGFD has worked, and will continue to work, with the BOAH to prevent exposure of free-roaming deer and elk to CWD. Monitoring of both captive and wild deer and elk for CWD will continue for years to come. This continued monitoring depends on hunters like you for cooperation in submitting deer heads for testing. Once test results are back from this year's sample of hunter-harvested animals, monitoring methods and results will be evaluated to determine need and methods for future CWD testing programs.

Human Health Risks

According to public health officials and the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, there is no evidence that this disease can be naturally transmitted to humans, domestic livestock or wildlife (outside the deer, elk, and moose family). Nonetheless, it makes good common sense to take the following simple precautions when handling carcasses of deer in areas of concern. It is recommended that rubber gloves be worn when field dressing carcasses. Minimize handling of brain and spinal tissues and wash hands afterward. Hunters should bone out carcasses or at least avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen and lymph nodes of harvested animals. Hunters should take extra precautions while handling wild animals whose behavior might suggest illness or disease. Hunters should avoid shooting an animal that appears injured or unhealthy.

Test Results

All hunters providing samples will be notified by the NDGFD of their sample test results. If any animal tests positive for CWD, NDGFD will notify that particular hunter immediately by personal contact. Testing of North Dakota deer will be conducted at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population Animal Health. Although testing procedures and the speed that results are received have improved, I regrettably cannot give you a definite amount of time that it will take for you to receive test results. The CWD Surveillance Program and testing procedures are neither designed nor intended to provide hunters with meat quality assurance for individual animals.

If you see or kill a deer that appears unhealthy or in very poor condition or have any other questions, contact the NDGFD office in Bismarck at 701-328-6300 or the District Game Warden with information regarding the animal and its location.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Steinwand".

Terry Steinwand
Director



DEER HUNTERS!

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH CWD SURVEILLANCE



Please drop off your **TAGGED** deer head (**ADULT BUCKS, DOES AND FAWNS**) at the following locations:

2012 Central Sites:

Alexander – Old School Meat Processing
Bismarck – M & M Sausage and Meats
Bismarck – West Dakota Meats
Crosby – Crosby Water Plant
Dickinson – Dean's Meat Market
Dunn Center – Lake Ilo NWR
Elgin – Gunny's Bait and Tackle
Foxholm – Upper Souris NWR
Garrison – Meyers' Meats
Glen Ullin – Kuntz's Butcher Shop
Hazen – Hazen Meats
Hettinger – Dakota Packing
Kenmare – Des Lacs NWR
Kenmare – Lostwood NWR
Kenmare – Seykora's Meat Processing
Mandan – Butcher Block Meats
Mohall – Engebretson Processing
New Leipzig – Hertz Hardware
Parshall – Myers' Meats
Scranton – Wolf's Processing
Solen – Hettich Salvage
Stanley – Stanley High School
Williston – Martin Kirschbaum
Williston – Scenic Sports

North Dakota Game and Fish Department District Offices:

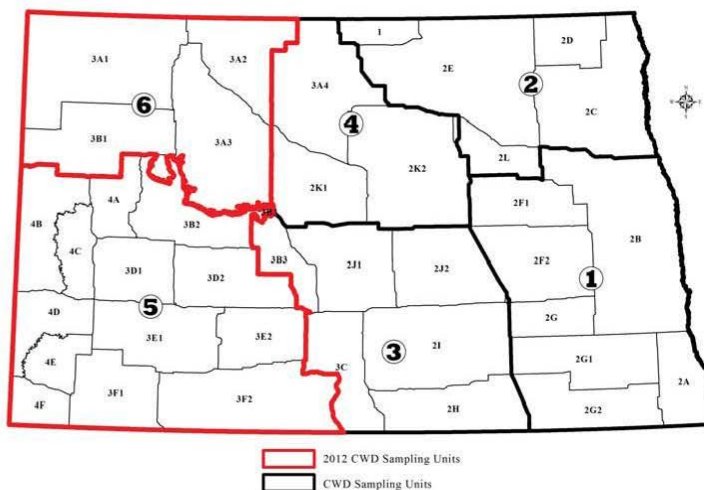
- Bismarck
- Dickinson
- Riverdale
- Williston

Taxidermists:

Bismarck – *Call of the Wild Taxidermy*
Elgin – *Melvin's Taxidermy*
Roseglen – *Giffey Taxidermy*
Williston – *Bickler Taxidermy*
Williston – *Zerr's Taxidermy*



2012 CWD SAMPLING UNITS



NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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